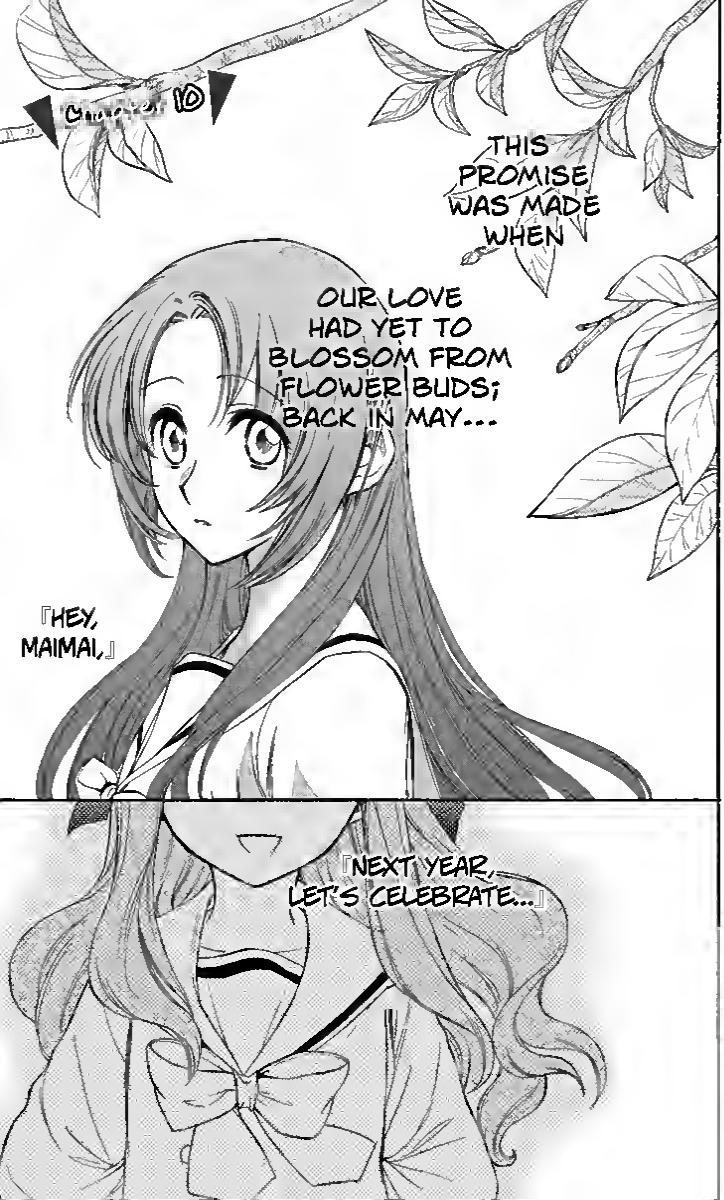

Chapter 10
THIS PROMISE WAS MADE WHEN
OUR LOVE HAD YET TO BLOSSOM FROM FLOWER BUDS; BACK IN MAY...
『HEY, MAIMAI,』
『NEXT YEAR, LET'S CELEBRATE...』

兄友
商ともこ

HELLO EVERY-ONE.
WE'VE SKIPPED AHEAD IN TIME AND NOW IT'S FEBRUARY.
I'LL MELT THE CHOCOLATE THERE, AS WELL. CAN YOU TELL ME THE HEAT SETTING AND HOW LONG TO PUT IT IN FOR?
TODAY, I'M MAKING CHOCOLATE AT MY FRIEND'S HOUSE.
ACTU-ALLY,
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MELT IT USING A HOT WATER BATH?

I love chocolate, so I love Valentine's Day, too

THANK GOODNESS I BEGGED MAI TO TEACH ME...
WE ALL HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE!
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE THIS CLUELESS ABOUT MAKING THESE THINGS...
GOSH,
Why are you here? Go home!
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING ON A DATE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
YUP.
HE'S COMING OVER TO PICK ME UP NOW.
I DON'T THINK I CALLED YOU HERE TO BE IN CHARGE OF SNACKING.
IF MAIMAI WASN'T HERE, THE KITCHEN WOULD'VE EXPLODED BY NOW.
You are teasing me! So annoying!
Name Nobuko
HYUU
HYUU
ARE YOU CONFESSING TO SOMEONE?
WHAT? THIS IS LIKE THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU MENTION BAKING, SO OF COURSE I HAVE TO COME.
THEN WHY DID YOU EVEN COME?! TO TEASE ME?!

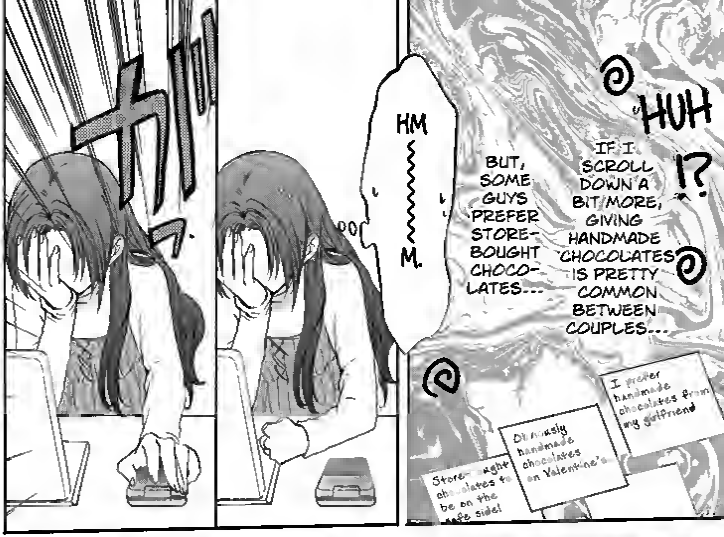
BUT, IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE,
GUYS SWARM LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME WHEN YOU HAVE HANDMADE CHOCOLATE UP FOR GRABS.
ぱくっ
REALLY?!
HUH?
MAI...
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU HAVE A CRUSH?
HUH?!
AH, NO!
RATHER, ACTUALLY...

I HAVE A BOY-FRIEND...
WHAAAAAAAAT?!
Ugh!
WAIT, WHAT?!
SINCE WHEN?!
RIGHT, RINGO?!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE HELPING ME MAKE CHOCO-LATES!
WHAT?

R-RINGO-SAN...?
RING RING
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM MY BOYFRIEND.
What?
Ah!
I'M GOING NOW. BYE.
AH... YEAH.
TAKE CARE~....
I WONDER IF IT WAS MY IMAGINATION, BUT RINGO-CHAN'S VOICE HAD A DARK UNDERTONE JUST NOW...
ANY-WAY, MAI!
WHAT?
YOU'D BETTER TELL ME THE DETAILS!
WHEN DID YOU START DATING?!
IS HE FROM OUR SCHOOL?
UHHHHH...

I WON'T LET YOU GO HOME UNTIL YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!
WHAT...?
THAT WAS... TIRING.
SHE REALLY MADE ME SAY EVERY-THING...
Huh? I've seen him before? Oh, the hottie from that time!
What school does he go to? What year is he in?
How long have you been going out for?
LET'S SEE...
Hmm..
『VALEN-TINE』
『CHOCO-LATE』
『ATTR-ACT』
Oh
WOW, THERE'S ACTU-ALLY QUITE A LOT OF HITS...

Sigh
The fridge is always filled with chocolate at this time of year
HM?
ONII GETS HAND-MADE CHOCO-LATE, TOO.
I WONDER WHAT HE DOES WITH THEM.
YOU SEE IT QUITE OFTEN IN DRAMA AND MANGA, BUT I GUESS TIMES ARE CHANGING A BIT.
『I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S BEEN PUT IN THEM.』
『IT'S TROU-BLING SOME-TIMES.』
『IT'S HARD TO FINISH EATING THEM IF THEY TASTE BAD.』
Woof! Woof!
I ATE THEM.
Hmm...
DO PEOPLE JUST GO TO HIM?
RELA-TIONSHIPS ARE HARD...
SO, HE ATE THEM.
Whine!


HM
M.
BUT, SOME GUYS PREFER STORE-BOUGHT CHOCO-LATES...
IF I SCROLL DOWN A BIT MORE, GIVING HANDMADE CHOCOLATES IS PRETTY COMMON BETWEEN COUPLES...
HUH !?
I prefer handmade chocolates from my girlfriend
Di Anasay handmade chocolates on Valentine's

Nanase-san
About Valentine's, would you like store-bought or handmade chocolates?
H-
HANDMADE CHOCO-LATES, PLEASE!
SO MUCH THAT HE'D CALL TO ANSWER!

laugh
GOT IT.
I MEAN, THAT'S ONLY IF YOU WANT TO...
UM...
NISHINO-SAN, WHAT KIND DO YOU LIKE?
AND I'D BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM YOU.
If possible, I'd like it to be...
AND SO,
HUH?! I, UH, LIKE PONY-TAILS...
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE CHOCOLATES, NISHINO-SAN!
You looked really cute at the school fest
Ah...
OH MY GOD
Gosh

Hmm.
WHAT SHOULD I MAKE?
TRUFFLES?
COOKIES?
CHOCOLATE GATEAU? BROWNIES?
I DECIDED TO STEP UP AND MAKE HIM A CHOCOLATE DESSERT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.
FOR NOW, I'LL JUST BUY SOME BAKING CHOCOLATE.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT SWEETS SHOP!
So cute!
THEY'RE DOING A VALENTINE'S EVENT!
THEY ARE!

ISN'T THAT SHOP FAMOUS FOR SELLING SWEETS THAT HELP YOU SUCCEED IN LOVE?
MAYBE I'LL BUY SOMETHING FOR MYSELF!
THAT SHOP AGAIN!
They sure have a lot of events lined up
I CAN'T SAY MUCH SINCE IT HAD AN EFFECT ON MY LOVE, TOO...
HMM?
ズゴゴゴゴゴ...

AKI-CHAN?
EEE—EEK!!?
HUH?! SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GET SO SURPRISED.
WAIT, ARE YOU OKAY?!
GOSH, YOU'VE GOT LEAVES ALL OVER YOU.
TH-
THANKS, AND SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...
NANASE-SAN...
She avoided eye contact!
SHE'S NOT CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME?!
WHAT? WHY?! YOU USED TO CALL ME MAI-CHAN!
WELL... THAT TIME, I GOT REALLY HYPED WHEN YOU CAUGHT THE GIANT STAG BEETLE...
AND, UH...
FORMALIN WAS JUST PUMPING THROUGH MY SYSTEM...
GETCHU!
DO YOU MEAN DOPA-MINE?!
IT'S FINE! JUST CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME!

WHENEVER I TRY TO GO IN, THE POWER OF THE GIRLS' AURA IS SO BLINDING THAT...
キャー
あああ
IS IT REALLY THAT BAD?!
DO
OM
STAB
ANYWAY, WHY AREN'T YOU GOING IN?
UGH!
'CAUSE...
GRIP
HMM?
BUT STILL...
THERE IS ONE THING IN THIS STORE THAT I MUST OBTAIN, NO MATTER WHAT.
IT ISN'T SOLD ANYWHERE ELSE—
AND IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME, DURING VALENTINE'S PERIOD...

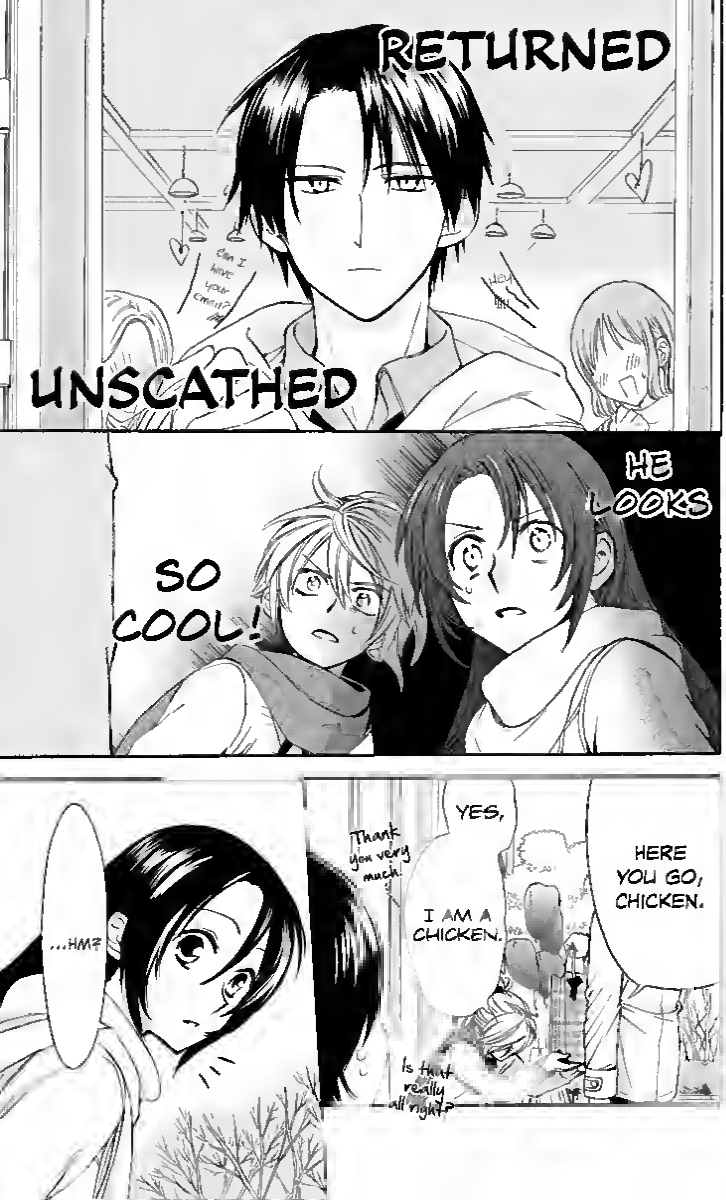
THIS CHOCO-STAG BEETLE SET!
HOW DID THEY COME UP WITH SUCH A CREATION?!
For your beloved...
SUCH QUALITY AND VARIETY! ONE OF THE PATISSERIES HERE MUST BE A COMRADE; A GETCHU♡BEETLE PLAYER!
Ah for the ladies all over the world
I WANT TAKE A PICTURE OF THE BEETLES LINED UP WITH THEIR CHARACTER CARDS!
GET CHU
WILL SHE EAT THEM?
BUT, I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO BUY CHOCOLATE BEETLES IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THOSE GIRLS...
URG...
I'LL PROBABLY GO IN AND BUY THEM FOR HER...
Onii is always scaring her, so I hope this will make up for it...

THESE CHOCO-LATES LOOK DAMN GROSS.
カバンノ ワスレタ
AKI-CHAN!

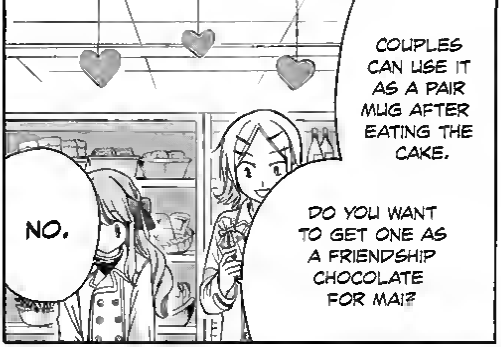
THAT ASIDE, ONCE A CHICKEN, ALWAYS A CHICKEN.
CHIC—
ーン

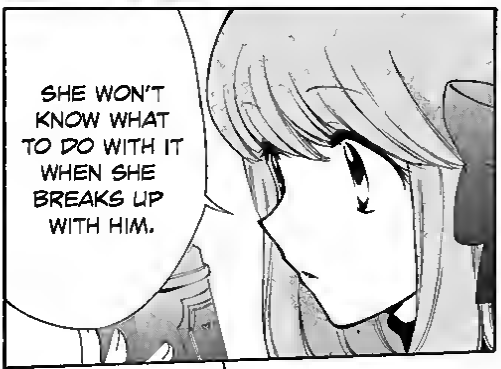
W-WHY ARE YOU HERE?
ON THE WAY HOME.
↓RIGHT.
At the back.

CAN'T YOU JUST BUY THEM NORMALLY?
SO WHAT?!
SENPAI, ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU CAN BUY CHOCOLATE BEETLES IN THE MIDST OF THIS FEMININE AURA?!
HMM?
HE WENT IN!
HE'S ADDING TO THE ORDER!
Also I want that and that and that matcha chocolate.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
HOW IS HE SUCH A NATURAL AT THIS?!
HE HAS ALL THEIR ATTENTION!
ALL THE GIRLS IN THE STORE ARE LOOKING AT HIM WITH A NEW GLINT IN THEIR EYES!!

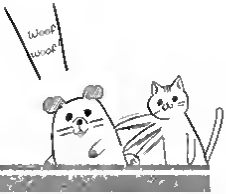

RETURNED
UNSCATHED
Can I have your cream?
HE LOOKS
SO COOL!
...HM?
Thank you very much!
YES,
I AM A CHICKEN.
HERE YOU GO, CHICKEN.
Is that really all right?

5+
VALENTINE'S DAY
2 14
OH?
THIS COUPLE MUG CAKE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.
Pair mug cake


COUPLES CAN USE IT AS A PAIR MUG AFTER EATING THE CAKE.
DO YOU WANT TO GET ONE AS A FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE FOR MAI?
NO.


SHE WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT WHEN SHE BREAKS UP WITH HIM.

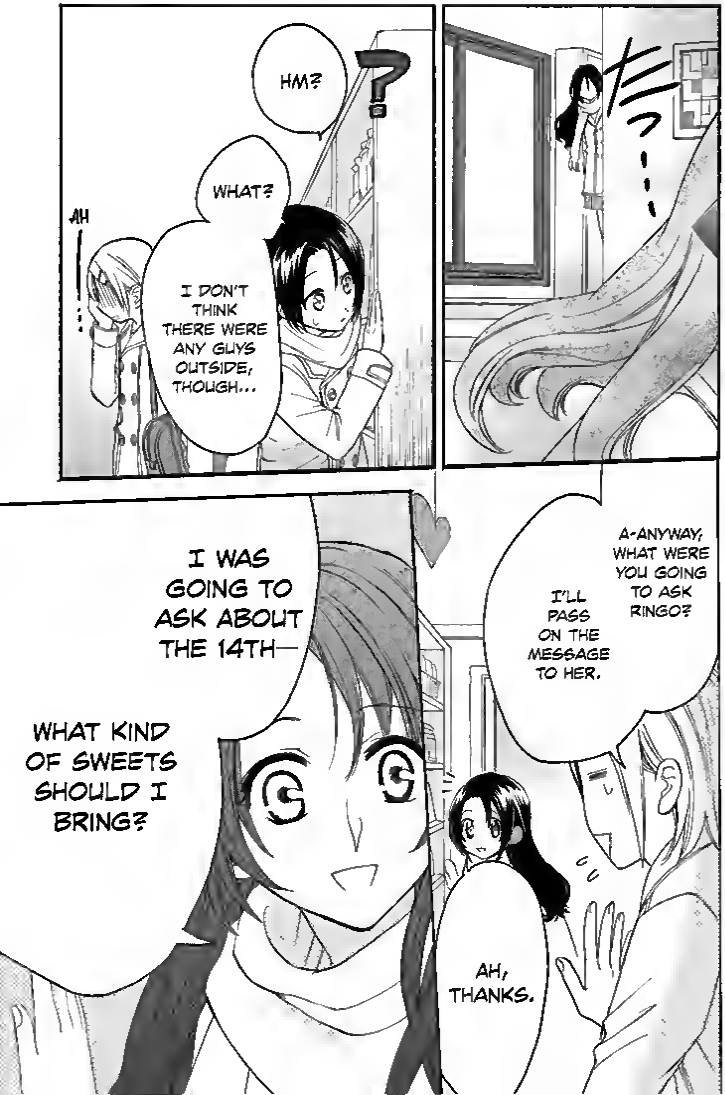
SO BLUNT...
I don't think they'll break up...
GEEZ,
YOU'RE SULKING ABOUT HER MISSING THAT, AREN'T YOU?


Wind whoo

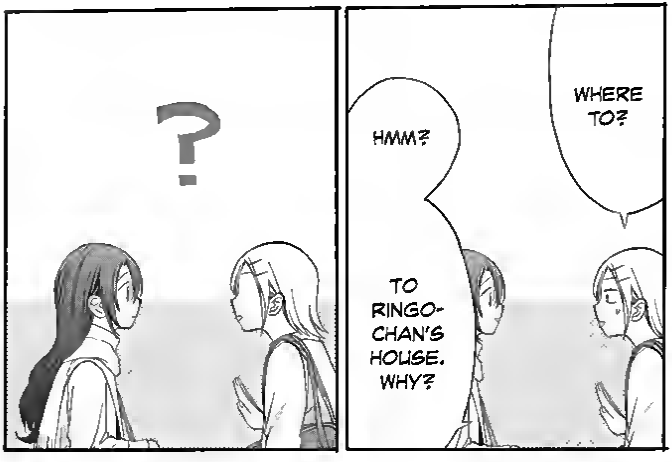
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 「THAT」?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY!
YOUR BIRTHDAY IS ON THE 15TH, SO CAN'T YOU JUST CELEBRATE IT ON THE ACTUAL DAY? WHY HAVE THE PARTY ON VALENTINE'S DAY?
IF IT OVERLAPS WITH VALENTINE'S DAY, IT'S PRETTY REASONABLE FOR HER TO PUT HER BOYFRIEND FIRST.
I'M GOING OUT WITH MY BOY-FRIEND ON THAT DAY.
THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE DAY AFTER THAT---
"OH, RIGHT, WE HAVE TO STUDY FOR TESTS.
Argh! Can't win!
I'M NOT BOTHERED ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY.
LIAR!"

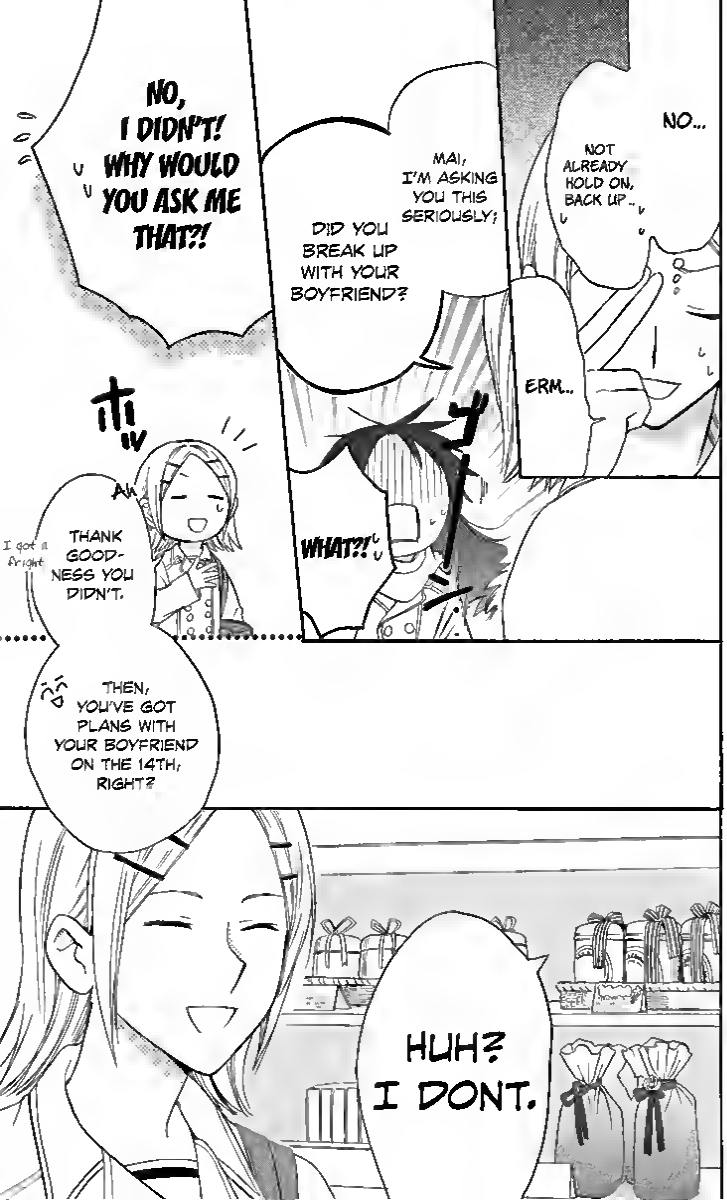
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THIS IS MAI'S FIRST BOY-FRIEND.
HA...
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT WITH HER.
EH...
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING...
HEY,
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU TWO.
W-WOW, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
ARE YOU BUYING CHOCOLATES FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND?
MAI!
NO, I—

WOAH! SHE'S HERE TO SAY SHE CAN'T MAKE IT TO HER BIRTHDAY PARTY!
JUST HAD GOOD TIMING AND SAW YOU GUYS WHILE I WAS HEADED SHOPPING.
RINGO-CHAN, ABOUT THE 14TH—
HUH?
RI-
RINGO-CHAN?!
MY BOY-FRIEND IS WAITING FOR ME, SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER.


HM?
WHAT?
AH...
I DON'T THINK THERE WERE ANY GUYS OUTSIDE, THOUGH...
ガラ～～
A-ANYWAY, WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO ASK RINGO?
I'LL PASS ON THE MESSAGE TO HER.
I WAS GOING TO ASK ABOUT THE 14TH—
WHAT KIND OF SWEETS SHOULD I BRING?
AH, THANKS.

UHH...


?
HMM?
TO RINGO-CHAN'S HOUSE. WHY?
WHERE TO?


NO...
NOT ALREADY HOLD ON, BACK UP..
ERM..
MAI, I'M ASKING YOU THIS SERIOUSLY;
DID YOU BREAK UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WHAT?!
NO, I DIDN'T! WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME THAT?!
Ah
I got a fright
THANK GOOD-NESS YOU DIDN'T.
THEN, YOU'VE GOT PLANS WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND ON THE 14TH, RIGHT?
HUH? I DONT.

I can't do this and meet my boyfriend at the same time,
RINGO-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY IS ON THE 14TH, RIGHT?
so I'll have to apologize to him later.
I MADE PLANS WITH HER FIRST, SO I'LL BE GOING TO HER PARTY.
OH, BUT I'LL DEFINITELY GIVE THE CHOCOLATES TO MY BOY-FRIEND.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT ON THE 14TH, SO IT'LL HAVE TO BE THE DAY AFTER...

Hmm...
I FEEL BAD FOR NOT GIVING IT TO HIM ON THE ACTUAL DAY,
BUT I'M SURE HE'LL UNDERSTAND IF I EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO HIM...
OW!
ARE YOU...
KID-KING ME...
DO YOU...

DO YOU WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?! YOU IDIOT!
WH-
WHAT?!